

New Linden Hill Road Working Group

Minutes

Monday, December 16, 2002, 9 a.m.

Skyline United Methodist Church

ATTENDEES:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Agency</u>
Greg Levine	Senator Sokola's Office
Joe Miro	State Representative
Pam Maier	State Representative
John O'Brien	Drummond Ridge
Charlie Potts	Drummond Hill
Daniel Bove	Creek Landing
Bud Freel	DelDOT
Kelly Pitts	DelDOT
Chris Costello	DelDOT
Charlie Leary	DelDOT

Project Update:

The project is nearing a traffic switch so that the contractor can perform work on the north side of the road. A-Del (the contractor) needs a window of warmer, dry weather to complete the paving on the south side of New Linden Hill Road. Once the paving is complete, traffic will be switched. While the contractor is waiting for paving weather, he will place underdrain pipe to address a groundwater problem that was encountered on the project during construction. This work will occur both before and after the traffic switch and will not affect the completion date of the contract.

Questions and Discussion:

- The first question was whether A-Del would quit working over the winter? A-Del will continue to work to try and make up the time lost due to bad weather over the last several months. From now until approximately February, A-Del will schedule paving operations within windows of good weather. A-Del will continue to place underdrain pipe during the cold weather.
- The next concern was about a dip at the entrance to Polly Drummond Shopping Center, that it can get icy and dangerous. This location is at the top of the hotmix list, and will be addressed as soon as the contractor has warm enough temperatures and dry enough weather to place hotmix.
- Then the question was asked whether the installation of underdrains due to the water issue will increase the cost of the project? This addition does have a cost, which will be included in the final cost of the project.
- A question was asked about the location of the bike trail. Traffic is actually riding over the future bike trail. After the traffic switch occurs, the trail will be separated from the road. A swatch will be cut between the road and the trail, which includes an 8ft. shoulder and 10 ft. swatch. The trail will be 18 ft. from the road.
- At the intersection of Upper Pike Creek Road and New Linden Hill Rd., a question was asked about whether there are plans for emergency vehicle sensors on the traffic lights. These sensors are not a part of this project, but Chris will check with DelDOT's Traffic Section to find out if they intend to install them. Chris will also inform them that three

fire companies service the area, Millcreek, Aetna and occasionally Hockessin. There are also cameras proposed for Polly Drummond Hill Rd. and New Linden Hill Rd, and at Skyline Drive.

- Regarding Videre Dr., it was asked whether temporary striping would occur in the spring. If the weather stays good, it may be before. It was expressed that a single file access to New Linden Hill is still a critical item. However, the striping issue will need to be reviewed prior to final striping.
- A discussion followed about the completion date of the project, and the difficulty working group members will have explaining to the community that a week of bad weather has delayed the project. It was noted that after having a very dry summer, the number of working days doesn't equate to the delay. And, that the Department should have anticipated the problems, and, that it is inexcusable for the project to go into 2003. It was also stated that the end didn't improve the public's perception of the Department in completing projects on time.
- Then, it was asked whether the contract has a penalty and incentive clause. This particular project did not have an incentive, but it does include penalties for not completing on time. However, days that the contractor loses due to bad weather are not held against the contractor. Rain, snow and cold temperatures began to affect the project around mid October. Once the ground gets wet, it takes time for the ground to completely dry out.
- It was asked, what was the number of days that A-Del couldn't work? This will have to be traced and brought back to the community. The community expected A-Del to be ahead of schedule, especially in light of a drought over the summer. Chris explained that DelDOT doesn't have the power to tell a contractor to work ahead of schedule or when to work for that matter. A-Del was not the only contractor involved in the project. Two to three weeks were also lost while waiting for the local Cable carrier to make cable repairs. The community also assumed if the contractor couldn't perform a certain task on a particular day, that other work would be done in its place. Chris explained that the contractor can perform other work while they are delayed on other tasks. However, the other work may not shorten the overall length of the project.
- It was expressed that the Department started with the wrong completion date, and the question was asked whether there was anything the Department could do to expedite the project? It would take a string of warm, dry weather.
- It was suggested that the Department make sure that the contractor is ready to go the extra mile on good weather days, and to make sure that nothing is done that will affect the quality of the road.
- Then, Chris was asked to provide a one-page explanation of events that have accounted for the delay that can be taken back to the community.
- There are slats at Videre Drive that interfere with site distance and it was asked whether they could be moved? Chris will have them removed, and stated that the Department will also upgrade the striping for night vision.
- Chris was asked what the priorities are at this point? The priorities are to replace the underdrains, pave the shoulders, and to switch traffic.
- Chris and Charlie were also informed about a flagger in the vicinity of Polly Drummond Hill Rd. who doesn't use a sign. They will talk to the contractor about this and make sure he's not out into traffic without a sign in the future.
- The community requested that the Department place signs and barriers out to make the area as safe as possible between Christmas and New Years.

Action Items:

- Chris is to inquire about the status of emergency vehicle cameras and to inform them that there are multiple fire departments involved.
- Chris/Kelly are to provide a one-page calendar or explanation of events that have affected the timeline of the project.
- Chris/Charlie are to remove slats at Videre Drive, and upgrade striping.
- Chris/Charlie are to make sure the flagger near Drummond Hill carries a sign or stays out of the road.
- Chris/Charlie are to see that the signs and barriers are adjusted over the holidays for additional safety.
- Charlie is to check the signage at the Pike Creek Shopping Center, where the wind had blown some over.

Next meeting, January 27, 2003 at Skyline United Methodist Church at 9 A.M.***For questions or comments you may contact:***

Area Engineer: Chris Costello, 326-4408

Project Supervisor: Charlie Leary, 456-9926

Public Relations: Bud Freel, 577-5100

Public Relations: Kelly Pitts, 760-2080